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TALK  
OF TEXAS

## History stalks streets of Point Comfort

By JACK MAGUIRE



Point Comfort (pop. 1,125) claims to be the only town in the state where every street name is taken from Texas history.

It all started in 1949 when the Aluminum Company of America was laying out a town to house the workers of a new plant it was building in Calhoun County on Lavaca Bay. Once the site was surveyed, engineers asked for the names of the proposed streets.

In Pittsburgh, Pa., ALCOA's headquarters, the street-naming assignment went to V.C. Doerschuk, the general manager of the company's smelters. He responded by picking up the 1949 edition of the Texas Almanac and getting a quick lesson in this state's history.

When he was through, the first 11 streets in the new town had names honoring Texans like Stephen F. Austin, Mirabeau B. Lamar, Anson Jones, Ben Milam and Deaf Smith. Henderson Street commemorates J. Pinckney Henderson, the first governor after statehood.

As Point Comfort grew beyond the original plan, more streets had to be added. Doerschuk picked the names of the next nine chief executives after statehood in the order of their service. Then as a public relations gesture, he named another after Beauford H. Jester, governor of Texas at that time.

Missing are the names of such famed Texans as James Bowie, Davy Crockett, James Bonham, William B. Travis and Sam Houston. However, that was not the fault of either Doerschuk or the Texas Almanac.

It happened that ALCOA was adding a new subdivision in nearby Port Lavaca at the same time it was building Point Comfort. Streets had to be named in Port Lavaca, too, and that community got the latter list.